THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of Hosts" (JER. 15: 16).

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"TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY" FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY.

THE Message of Peace comes with Christmas of the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifteen, amid the dreadful din of war echoing from far-off eastern lands, and reverberating from nearer points in this western hemisphere. "Good will to men" sounds strangely discordant, mingled with the roar of artillery, the crash of bombs, the cries of the wounded and dying, the yells of infuriated foes, the moans of widows and orphans, the curses of fellow "Christian" antagonists, and the fiery blasts of burning homes and ruined cities. Can there be any worse hells than those now on earth, created by professed followers of the Prince of Peace? But as darkness deepens before the dawn, and calm follows the tempest, let us look for the contrast to come, and hope that it may come quickly with all the joys and serene blessings of a long-predicted Millennium.

Christmas is an annual foreword of that volume of benisons to come forth in the fulfilment of Divine promises. A reign of righteousness is to hold dominion on earth, and the result is to be Universal Peace. Therefore, let us all observe it in the true spirit of the occasion. While we sympathize with the suffering, we need not ignore the blessings at hand, nor fail to enjoy the favors within our reach, extended by a bountiful Providence, and gathered by industry and frugality. Zion is blest indeed. Rich harvests have rewarded the toil of the farmers and fruitgrowers, not only in this western region, but generally throughout the land. The sugar industry has received an impetus here which places it in the front rank of Utah's great products. The beet-grower is thus benefited as well as the manufacturer, and the investor receives fair returns for his capital, and the whole community is the richer

and prosperity abounds, every branch of business reaping the fruits of this increase, and thus Plenty reigns and Poverty is driven into narrow quarters. The general health here is good. Utah's death-rate is small in comparison with that in other states, while her birth-rate is higher.

There have been some disasters during the year now passing, by floods caused by bursting dams and reservoirs; but the fatalities have been very few, and the united efforts of individuals and the Church have started the unfortunate sufferers on the road to new endeavors and new returns. Refugees from the Mexican colonies, abandoned because of the wars in that unhappy country, are making homes in Utah and surrounding places, and are rapidly recovering from the losses incurred, and the sufferings sustained. Many missionaries who were laboring in the countries now involved in deadly strife have returned in safety to their homes in the mountains, a number of them finishing the usual term of service in various parts of the United States, not having completed it abroad. All come home rejoicing in the manifestations of a protecting Providence, and in their remarkable deliverance from harm and danger.

Missionary work in this country and in those regions not seriously menaced by war is carried on with new vigor and success. Converts are made in large numbers in each of the American missions, and excellent reports come from Australia, New Zealand, the Society Islands, Samoa, Hawaii, and other Pacific islands. And this is true also of Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Switzerland, South Africa, and Japan. Even in the belligerent nations interest is aroused in the latter-day cause through the fulfilment of the prophecies concerning this conflict uttered by the Seer of the nineteenth century.

The work of proselyting has been greatly aided by the World's Expositions on the Pacific coast. Hundreds of thousands of tourists to and from the west, have visited Salt Lake City, and learned something true about the much-maligned "Mormons." The Bureau of Information, with its able corps of workers, has disseminated knowledge concerning the latter-day gospel which is being carried throughout this country and to the "ends of the earth." People of high standing, as well as those of lower degree, have been astonished at what they have seen and heard for themselves, on the spot, which they had been led to believe was a sink-hole of iniquity and ignorance, but where they have learned much to admire and even wish to see prevail in their home neighborhoods. This proves a stronger refutation of the calumnies of anti-"Mormon" agitators and pulpit and platform prevaricators, than anything that could be said or written in reply by our own advocates or defenders. Some of the effects thus produced are seen in rational and fairly-stated articles on "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" in numerous newspapers and magazines.

Utah people have had opportunity to visit the Pacific coast, through reachable rates on the railroads, and large numbers, including many Church officials, have availed themselves of it, and have enjoyed the rich displays of the world's products at the great expositions, and at the same time have made an excellent impression upon other travelers and the Californians whom they met. The conventions held in San Francisco were attended by many Utah delegates, who were received with marked honors and special attention.

Among them were the Genealogical convention, at which Utah's workers were very prominent and helpful; the Congress of Religions Philosophies, where our Dr. James E. Talmage delivered an exceptionally fine address on the Philosophical Basis of Mormonism, which was published in full; the celebration of Utah's day—the advent of the Pioneers on July 24th, 1847—honored by the presence and speeches of leading men and high officials of the city and State. This great gathering was held in front of the Utah building on the Fair grounds, and the general enthusiasm was enhanced by the splendid appearance and marchings of the Salt Lake High School cadets, and the notable address of the "Mormon" President, which made a profound impression upon all who heard it. The tour of the Ogden Tabernacle Choir was another grand feature of Utah's participation in California's great enterprise. The musical treat thus furnished will never be forgotten by the hosts of appreciative listeners in the several cities favored with a visit. Utah and California have been mutually benefited by the closer union that has resulted from this "getting together."

Our Salt Lake Tabernacle choir and organ have played important parts in the work of removing prejudice from the minds of visitors from all parts of the world, and opening their hearts to the reception of the truth concerning our faith and our mission. So with our public buildings, projects and industries. The Church universities and academies, with our State educational institutions, are viewed with wonder and as evidences that the people of Utah are up-to-date, and in some respects ahead of older communities in these important matters.

The revival of the "Home Products" movement, recently put in force, attracts attention to the art and skill and labors of Utah's workers, and shows the benefits of a general use of those fruits of the soil, and of manufactures that are the results of our own industry, instead of relying upon imports and sending away funds that are needed at home. This is like an echo of past words of advice from eminent Church leaders, but it rings with wise counsel and is timely and profitable, and should be heeded throughout the State.

The prohibition cause under local option in the districts where the Latter-day Saints are in the majority, has proved of great benefit to the public, and gives evidence of the good citizenship

and social purity of the "Mormons." And while Salt Lake City has not been in close line with that movement, the civic regulations, with efficient police enforcement, have maintained order and suppressed vice, so as to present to investigators the elements of a clean, well-governed municipality.

The Latter-day Saints' Church office building is advancing towards completion, and its fine, granite exterior and noble proportions claim the admiration of all beholders. The erection of numerous ward chapels, stake meeting-houses, gymnasiums, amusement halls, additions and improvements to other Church edifices, with the rearing of a great Temple in Alberta, Canada, mark progress in the building up of Zion and the need of faithful observance of the law of tithing. The maintenance of Temples and Church Schools, the return expenses of numerous missionaries, the aid extended to sufferers from floods and other calamities, the assistance rendered to the poor, with many other expenditures, form a continual drain on the Church treasury. The contemplated Temple at Laie, Hawaii, it is expected, will be built chiefly with funds obtained from native sources. It will prove a great boon to the saints of the Pacific Islands, who are already rejoicing in anticipation of its blessings. The ordinance work in the four completed Temples is of remarkable magnitude. Those sacred sanctuaries are kept in constant service for the living and for the dead, and the Salt Lake Temple, especially, is crowded to overflowing, and double duty is daily required of the faithful workers there to meet the desires of the hosts of eager devotees from all parts of the Church.

The railroads that traverse this State and connect it with surrounding regions are of incalculable value to the public in general, and the Latter-day Saints in particular. It would be almost impossible to ship products to distant markets, and provide transportation for visitors to the Temples and business and education centers, but for these essential aids to inter-communication. The courtesies and general fair treatment they extend, and the new lines connecting our settlements with the main roads that reach out to far distant parts, render the railway service of immeasurable worth and convenience to the community, and suggest proper consideration by the legislative and executive departments of our State government, and the public in general.

The prospects before the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at this Christmas season are exceedingly bright and encouraging. The wonderful organization set up by divine power and authority is kept in complete order and active operation. It is rare that any of its officials prove recreant to their trust, unworthy of confidence, or slothful in the performance of duty. There is a general, hearty and pleasing response to every requirement, and such gratuitous work from willing hands as cannot be found in any other church or society on the earth. In the quorums

of the holy Priesthood and in the auxiliary associations, there is emulation and continuity of effort worthy of the highest praise and of the eternal rewards that await the fervent and faithful brethren and sisters thus engaged.

Throughout the Church a spirit of unity, devotion, and faith prevails. The visits of Teachers to the members help greatly in the diffusion of this happy influence, and in the settlement of such differences as may arise in families or in neighborhoods. Therefore, Bishop's courts and High Council trials are few and far between, and civil litigation is rendered infrequent, and in many places almost unnecessary. The introduction of the home-meeting movement has been an aid in this direction. One evening a week, or at least a month, for home family recreation, improvement and enjoyment, conducted in order and under a religious spirit, proves successful in the desired direction, and is to be heartily recommended everywhere.

The dissemination of Church literature and the publication of the newspapers and magazines containing Church and general news and doctrinal articles for old and young, are an increasing factor in the promulgation of the gospel of the Savior, the anniversary of whose birth we are just about to celebrate. A notable work of this character, recently issued from the press of the *Deseret News*, written by Elder James E. Talmage, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, *Jesus the Christ*, is appropriate for Christmas circulation, and, being published by authority of the Church, is worthy of perusal by its members and instructors. It differs from all other volumes on the history of the world's Redeemer, in scope and extent of the subject, and accuracy of detail. It may be ranked as a standard of historical and religious information.

The latest reprint of Church History, published by the Historian's Office, has reached the sixth volume, and forms a valuable collection for every library, public and private. It is furnished at reduced rates by the Deseret News Book Store, to place the whole set within the reach of the societies and members of the Church. The comprehensive *History of the Mormon Church*, by Elder B. H. Roberts, of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies, and published in *The Americana*, is completed to recent date, and will also form six large volumes when bound in book form, containing data and details collated in forcible style, most comprehensive and valuable for reference.

The advancement of the Church in every department is truly gratifying, and a potent reason for seasonable rejoicing. In spite of "man's inhumanity to man," so awfully manifested in the dreadful struggle between nations now impending, we may rationally take cognizance of present causes for gladness and thanksgiving, and look through the clouds of direful war to the sure and certain fulfilment of the promises of permanent peace in the approaching advent of our Lord and King. The conflict of

nations is one of the signs of His coming. Attended by earthquake and famine, pestilence and tempest, volcanic eruptions, fear and commotion, destruction from air and ocean, on land and sea, and the development of novel methods of diabolical slaughter, rapine and horror, these tokens of the approaching crisis are rendered vividly striking as another proof of the coming of the "end," by the present fulfilment of His further prediction: "Then shall this gospel of the kingdom be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24: 12).

It is the calling and duty and business of the Latter-day Saints to carry on this mission given to them of the Christ by revelation in these latter days. There should be no slackening of effort, nor shrinking from sacrifice, nor delay because of difficulties. This Christmas time is a reminder of Christ's commands. At the same time it is a whisper from angelic regions that the work is to be done in the spirit of, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good-will to all men." With this feeling uppermost in our hearts, we send Christmas greeting to our brethren and sisters everywhere, with good wishes to all people throughout the wide, wide world, in hope and anticipation and assurance, that right will triumph over wrongful might, truth will conquer error, and and light will dissipate the darkness, and He whose right it is to rule, will come in glory and in strength, as the mighty God, the Everlasting Savior, the Prince of Peace.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
ANTHON H. LUND.
CHARLES W. PENROSE.

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.—*Deseret News.*

THE WORLD WAR.

THE New year has received, as an inheritance from the Old, a war, the extent of which is strikingly pictured by an American journal, thus:

"The lands of the countries at war stretch from Vancouver to Labrador, across the ocean to the British Isles and to France, still eastward through Germany, Russia in Europe, and by the steppes of Asia to Vladivostok and the Japanese isles, and so again across the Pacific back to Vancouver. Nor does this by any manner of means give an idea of the territory of those involved. There are islands in the Caribbean, and islands in the South Pacific, islands by Cape Horn, and islands in the Polar seas, all of whose people are at war. There are little colonies on the coast of South America, just as there are coral reefs in the Indian Ocean, with only a stray fisherman for an inhabitant, subject to attack at any moment. From Spitzbergen to Melbourne the continents are continuously at war. With the exception of China and Siam, all Asia is ranged under one flag. There is not a yard of the coast of Africa which is not some enemy's country. Men have fought in the jungles of the

Rufiji River, and on the railway from Walfisch Bay to Windhoek, in Togoland, and on the banks of the Suez Canal. Asia Minor is as much a camp as is Australia, the Nile as open to sea raiders as the St. Lawrence, whilst the Baltic and the Mediterranean are as closed to the keels of the merchant ships of one or another of the belligerents as the Rhone or the Rhine."

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WAR.

December 2.—Czernowicz, in Bukowina, said to be recaptured by Russians. Total British casualities, up to November 9th, given as 510,230. This includes dead, wounded, and missing.

December 3.—Serbians evacuate Monastir. The city occupied by Germans and Austrians. The French retire from Kadjeck. General Joffre appointed commander-in-chief of French armies. General Sarrail relieved from command in the Balkans.

December 4.—The English force retreating toward Kut-el-Amara, near Bagdad. Italian forces to land in Albania. The Serbian Army retreats into Albania. Greece agrees to give the allies free use of the railroad lines in Macedonia and the Ægean harbors. German naval and military attachés in Washington recalled.

December 6.—Ipek, in Montenegro, reported captured by Austro-German forces. The French retreating. British submarine in the Sea of Marmora shells a railroad, and sinks a supply steamer and four sailing vessels.

December 7.—There is talk about the allies retiring from the Balkans.

December 10.—Italians occupy Valona, Albania.

December 11.—The allies retreating from Serbia over the Greek border. Serbian forces in Albania said to consist of two hundred and twenty battalions, with 250,000 rifles.

December 14.—The allies enter Greece, pursued by Anstrians, Germans, and Bulgarians; fortifying Salonika.

December 15.—General French succeeded by Sir Douglas Haig. General French takes command of the home defense. Italian troops land in Albania. Anstria sends a pert reply to the United States' note on the sinking of the *Ancona*.

December 16.—Russians occupy Hamadan in Persia.

December 20.—The War Department announces the withdrawal of the British forces from Suvla Bay and Anzac to "another sphere of operations," which is understood to mean the end of the offensive in the Gallipoli Peninsula. That campaign was begun on February 19th, 1915.

December 22.—The Russians are reported to have occupied Varna, in Bulgaria, and Kum, in Persia. The French capture 1,200 prisoners in the Vosges. The United States sends another note to Anstria on the *Ancona*, demanding satisfaction.

December 30.—Russians are reported to have shelled the palace at Varna. German forces concentrate there. An Austrian naval division makes a futile attempt to bombard Durazzo.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1916.

EDITORIAL.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In this, the first number of a new volume of the *Star*, we extend a hand of greeting to our readers and to all the saints and friends in the British and European missions, wishing them all a happy new year, with an abundance of joy and advancement in every respect. And may the new year bring peace to the world, if so be the will of Him who is the Ruler of nations, in order that their deep wounds may be healed up and happiness return to desolate homes, and radiance to eyes now dimmed with tears.

The year that is past has brought sorrow and pain to many of God's children. They have passed through trials and tribulations. But God has given them the strength necessary to bear the burden with fortitude. Their faith has grown stronger and firmer, and their spiritual vision clearer, and for this they are full of gratitude. They realize more than ever before the significance of the Scripture which says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I. Peter 4: 12, 13). That is the ultimate result of trials endured in faith. They bring everlasting joy.

The past year, however, has showered upon us many blessings and mercies, as well as trials, and they should not be forgotten. We should contemplate the lovingkindness of our heavenly Father, as did David in his beautiful song. "Bless the Lord, O my soul! and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103: 1).

We know not what the new year may have in store for us, but this we know, that God lives and that those who place their trust in Him are under His protecting care. It is not necessary that we should know the details of the future. We are all passengers on the stormy ocean of life, speeding towards the shore of eternity. In a general way we know what course the ship is going to steer, how long it will take, approximately, to make the journey, etc. But as to the details, we know nothing. Are we going to encounter stormy weather? Shall we meet icebergs? Will there be any accident? As to all such matters we are in the dark. "We know what we are but not what we will be." We only know that our

Captain is capable of meeting all emergencies, and that, if we conform to the rules of the ship, all will be well with us, and we shall reach the harbor in safety.

To many of our Christian friends in the world the prospect looks gloomy. On every hand the question is now raised, Is Christianity a failure? Is there a God?

The Latter-day Saints do not have such forebodings, such doubts. What is happening to-day they have been taught to look for, and it but confirms them in their faith. To them the prospect for the triumph of truth over error, good over evil, was never brighter than it is now. The "little stone" is rolling on and growing. The adversary may be full of wrath, but only because he knows that his time is now short. If at times it should appear as if the glory of the Lord had departed from the earth and the children of men were given over to the devices of their own hearts and the powers of darkness, the fact remains that the Lord is manifesting Himself all the time, even in the tremendous upheavals we are witnessing around us, and that the final end will be the establishment of His kingdom.

The ground is being leveled for the palace of the King, the New Jerusalem. Old institutions are giving way to the new that will take their place. And when our Father and our God has finished His work of redemption of this earth, we shall sing His praise and shout for joy, as we did when the foundations of this same earth were laid in the morning of creation.

Looking forward to the glorious day that is coming, we cannot but have a happy new year.

HYRUM M. SMITH.

JULIUS CÆSAR BURROWS.

AN *Associated Press* dispatch from Kalamazoo, Michigan, dated November 16th, last year, announced the death, in that city, of former United States Senator Julius Cæsar Burrows, from an attack of heart disease, at the age of seventy-eight years. He retired at ten o'clock in the evening. At midnight his family heard him groan, and when they came to his bedside, he had passed away.

Mr. Burrows was first elected to Congress from the Fourth congressional district of Michigan, in 1872, and served continuously in that body, with the exception of the forty-eighth Congress, until 1894, when he was elected to the Senate to succeed Frank B. Stockbridge, also of Kalamazoo. He remained in the Senate for seventeen years, retiring in 1911.

The late Senator is remembered for the part he took in the spectacular investigation of the right of Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, to the seat in the Senate to which he had been elected. Mr.

Burrows was chairman of the committee that conducted the investigation. Senator Smoot was finally, by majority vote of the Senate, declared entitled to his seat. His opponents, among whom was the later Michigan Senator, did not reap any glory from their part in the proceedings. He was defeated for re-election in his own state.

As far as the Church was concerned, the investigation did more good than harm. A set of fanatics and office-hungry politicians, banded themselves together for the purpose of inducing the United States to expel Senator Smoot. The fanatics hoped that the Church would suffer in prestige by being ostracized at the Capitol, and the politicians saw a chance of getting control of offices. Both objects seemed to be desirable. Their plan was to accuse the Senator from Utah of belonging to an organization that taught and practised polygamy, and aimed at financial and political domination in the State. They knew that there was no foundation for these allegations, but they counted on the prevailing prejudices against an unpopular church for the success of their plan, with or without evidence.

But when the matter came before the Senate, proofs were demanded, and an investigation extending over several years was instituted. No stone was left unturned in that search. Every nook and corner was thoroughly looked into. The outcome was that the Senate declared that Senator Smoot was entitled to his seat. The accusations had not been sustained.

This was an eye-opener to the thinking American public. The nature of the opposition to the Church stood revealed in its true color. The Church and Church leaders gained many friends, and a spirit of inquiry became manifest in many places. The investigation, which was instigated in a spirit of persecution, ended in the greatest possible defeat of the would-be persecutors, and the vindication of truth.

We could wish that some of our English friends were better conversant with the history of the Church, and the opposition it has so successfully overcome. They would then understand that there is absolutely no ground for the common conceptions of "Mormons" and "Mormonism" which prevail amongst the ignorant and unenlightened, who have never heard more than one side—the enemy's. In the United States, the Church is now highly respected (except among fanatics) as a moral and educational force of great value to the state, and that is the position it will occupy everywhere, among thinking classes, when the darkness of ignorance shall be rolled away and the light of truth take its place.

J. M. S.

AN APPRECIATION.

THE Editor of the *Star* desires to express his appreciation of the

aid rendered by all the friends and readers of this little publication during the past year; and especially of the communications sent in, and the many kind words of encouragement received in our efforts. We trust that the interest in the *Star* will continue, and even increase during this year, and that its mission of truth, peace, and goodwill among men may be crowned with success. We know the Saints will appreciate the Christmas message from the First Presidency of the Church and the splendid likeness of President Joseph F. Smith, published in this week's issue.

HYRUM M. SMITH.

A DAY OF WARNING.

"FOR this is a day of warning, and not a day of many words. For I, the Lord, am not to be mocked in the last days. Behold, I am from above, and my power lieth beneath * * * and the day cometh that all things shall be subject unto me" (Doc. and Cov. 63: 58, 59).

Think not that an elder's duty is to call unto repentance only those who have not, as yet, heard the gospel. I venture a warning to all "tea-drinking saints" to "repent and believe the gospel," and with the intelligence contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, Sec. 89, revealing the Word of Wisdom, to comply with it, and come up to the standard. I fully believe a statement made by President Hyrum M. Smith, "The time will come when every Latter-day Saint will keep the Word of Wisdom."

Do not say, "O, well, I don't think a cup of weak tea once a day will keep me out of heaven." But we must not trifle with the word of God. "Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit, and in this there is no condemnation, and ye receive the Spirit through prayer; wherefore, without this there remaineth condemnation" (Doc. and Cov. 63: 64).

A saint who is not doing everything within his, or her, power to help the elders to advance the gospel of Christ, is not following the dictates of the Spirit. Only slowly are God's children comprehending the gospel; and not all of those who have entered are enjoying in a fulness the great blessings of living its principles.

Norwich. VERN R. EKINS.

As each year hurries by let it join that procession of skeleton shapes that march down to the past, while you take your place in the line of Progression, with your eyes on the heavens, your face to the blast."—ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

TEACHINGS OF THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS.

THE next book the author of *The Bible Teaching About Christ* deals with is the Doctrine and Covenants, and he states:

"The Doctrine and Covenants is clearly on a much lower plane than the Book of Mormon in its teaching about these subjects, especially in its later portions. But there is much of truth in general, many points of the Book of Mormon being given. But there are many decided errors, against which every believer in the Bible must guard, as the following, mostly from the later portion of the book."

Our worthy friend has certainly read the standard works of the Church; but the pity is, he read only to criticize.

One of the alleged "errors" he points out, is: That we were in the beginning with the Father (Sec. 93: 23-29). This, of course, takes up the subject of pre-existence, which we most firmly believe in. We are as sure that we lived in the spirit world, before we came here, as we are that we shall one day return there. If not, whence came the spirit within? The moment the spirit leaves, the body is dead, useless. Before the spirit enters the body of a new-born babe it has no separate existence, even though its body is perfectly formed. Is the first piercing cry of the babe really the cry of anguish of the spirit, as it realizes all it is leaving behind, and the uncertainty it is facing? Who can tell us? Whether it be so or no, none but those who are in the room as the babe comes forth from its cosy nest into this cold earth—doctor, father, nurse and friend—know what an anxious moment that is, as they breathlessly wait for that first cry, for only then can they say, "It lives; thank God, it lives!" Now, whence came that spirit that gave the baby life? Could it emerge from the realms of nowhere—a thing of its own creating? Reason answers, No! and man is left to his own vain imaginings, until the voice of modern revelation makes the matter clear. That spirit came from heaven, it says, where it had lived with God. You and I and every creature born on earth, once lived with the Father in heaven. He begat our spirits in the spirit world, and for long ages we lived with Him there. Then a great council was called, and the Father told us He was going to make a new world, and we should go and people it; but, He continued, once out of my sight, you will not always live as you should, and you will encounter sin; and many and grievous are the battles you will have therewith, and you will not always conquer. So far will you wander from the strait and narrow way, that a Savior will be necessary. Now, who will go and endure hatred, opposition, calumny, loneliness, and an awful cruel death; who amongst you will endure the untold agony through which you must pass in order to atone for the sins of mankind?

Then Lucifer, son of the morning, one of the most striking figures there, stepped forth. "I will go," said he. "Your plan!"

said the Father. "Force shall be my lode-stone," answered Lucifer. "Whether they will, or no, every soul that leaves these precincts shall return, and, when I have compelled them all to come back, then I shall claim my reward." "And that is?"—"A seat on yonder throne," indicating nothing less than the throne of the Great Creator. "I will be equal with you, and reign with you."

Dead silence followed, a silence that could be felt, and then a murmur of disapproval ran through the whole assembly. Force, indeed! Who was he that he should compel us against our will? Would we submit? No, we would not! "Father, no!" we murmured, "we will not accept him as our savior."

Then again silence, and then One, beautiful as the dawn, fair as a summer's morning, stepped forth. Humbly, softly, He murmured, "Here am I, send me!" Ah! who was this, so grand, so fair, and yet withal so humble? 'Tis the Father's eldest son, our elder brother. Silence! hear what He has to say! "Your plan!" said the Father, and every ear was strained to catch the answer. "Love shall be my lode-stone; I will leave every man free as he is now. In the world to which we all shall go, I will mark out a path, and all who would get back to these heavenly regions must follow that path; but no force, no coercion will I use; every soul shall be free to choose his life, and what he'll be. Reward I seek not. Thy will to do is all I ask, thine approval all I desire."

He ceased, and the tension that had held that vast assembly breathless, now relaxed, and approval showed on the faces and in the satisfied murmur that gently stirred the air. The choice had been made, our elder brother should be our savior.

But Lucifer, son of the morning, second only in grandeur to his chosen elder brother, cast upon him a look of undying hatred, and from that hour war was silently declared; then, turning on his heel like a defeated general, he left the council room, but not to yield in silence and without protest. A great spirit can always command the allegiance of weaker ones, and so Lucifer called together his adherents, and they rose in rebellion. The Father mustered an army under the leadership of Michael, and a great "battle" was fought, in which Michael's army was victorious, and Lucifer and his followers were thrust out of heaven and became the devil and his angels. Then the scheme spoken of at the grand council was put into execution, the earth was formed, everything was prepared for man's reception, and then, out of the elements found on the earth, God formed a man's body, and Adam's spirit took possession of it and inhabited it, the spirit giving it life and making it immortal, until its first encounter with sin, when the change, discussed in a previous article, took place, and man became mortal, subject to death.

Now, I fancy I hear my worthy friend exclaim, "Yes, that is all very fine, a beautiful fairy story, woven out of a vivid imagination,

but we want proof, solid proof that what you say is true." Here it is, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

"The angels which kept not their first estate" were the devil and his followers. "For if God spared not the angels which sinned, but cast them down to hell," etc. (II. Peter 2:4). "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Rev. 12:7-9).

Here, then, we have solid proof that the devil was once an inhabitant of heaven; that he rose in rebellion, conflict ensued, and he was cast out. No morbid imaginings of a fevered brain are these, but solid, substantial, Bible facts. But what the quarrel was about, and who took part therein, is left for modern revelation to show us, and this you will find, as stated in Doctrine and Covenants 29:36; 76:25-27; and Pearl of Great Price, Moses 4.

Yes, I fancy I hear our friend answer, but that does not prove that you and I lived in heaven. Wait a moment! Modern revelation again. This explains to us that Michael is Adam's heavenly name. Sectarians are fond of singing, "We shall have a new name in that land, in that land, that sunny, sunny land." Is it a new name we receive, or do we again have the name by which we were called before we left our heavenly home? Whichever it may be, modern revelation tells us that in heaven Adam was called Michael, and he it was who led the victorious army (Doc. and Cov. 107:54).

Well, you may say, but how does that prove that you and I were in heaven and at that great council? Even if Adam was there, you and I might not have been. Take your Bible and read. "Of a truth I perceive God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34: read also I. Peter 1:17).

Now, if Adam was at that council, and you and I were not, God *is* a respecter of persons, for He gave him a greater insight into things than we have.

Another thought: Who comprised the army, if not you and I? But we have not to rely upon this one idea. The Apostle Paul, speaking of Christ, says, "That he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29). Now, Christ was not the firstborn upon earth by any means, so He must have been born first in heaven, and if He was the first, who were the next? He Himself said we were His brethren. He called God *our* Father, and said He was going "to my Father and *your* Father." And in the story of the blind man (John 9:2), the disciples asked the Lord who had sinned, the man or his parents, that he was born blind.

Now, how could a man sin before he was born into this world, unless he had had a previous existence?

Search the scriptures, both old and new, and see if I have not told you true.

MOLLIE HIGGINSON.

THEORY IS NOT SALVATION.

I HAVE just returned from tracting, and while out I had an experience which will, perhaps, give force to, and impress this important truth upon the mind of some one. On ringing at the door of a house, an old lady answered the bell, and to her I presented a tract on the first principles of the gospel, explaining briefly the contents; adding, also, a few words on the importance of obedience to the principles of faith, repentance, and baptism, and made mention of the essentialness of keeping one's self clean and uncontaminated of the sins of the world. The old lady, bent and broken in health, in a squeaky voice, declared she knew all I said was true, and she knew it before I had seen the light of day; her husband, also, had known it, but drink had killed him. So enthused did she become, that she drew her hand from behind her to enforce her speech by gesture, and lo and behold! in her right hand was a jug; she was on her way to the public-house. Thus, with all her hived knowledge, and with her ability to quote the letter of the Scripture, what did it profit her without the strength to make that knowledge practical? How long will men (the race) be children? When will they know that learning, undirected by wisdom, only encumbers what it seems to enrich?

It has been said that all the religions in the world are but speculations in morals, mere theories of salvation, until the individual realizes that he must be saved by relying on the law of truth, and living his life in harmony with it.

O posterity of Adam! Latter-day Saints in particular! Don't get the idea that you are passengers on the train of life, having your tickets paid by our Lord, or from the saved-up righteousness of someone else; nor think all you have to do is to sit in soft-cushioned seats, until you reach the heavenly station, but know this: "Life is like a mountain railway," you are the engineer, and if you will make the run successfully, you must be ever alert, for your enemy, sin, is treacherous; you must be ever on guard against the swamps of intemperance, impurity, bad company, frivolity, and inactivity. Never drive too near the precipice of vanity, boastfulness, or self-righteousness. You must keep your fire-box full of spiritual fuel, and of the knowledge of the gospel, that you may pull the mountain of opposition, and meet the bluffs of the

gain-sayer, and you must make your rail bright by the oil of example.

London. GILBERT TAYSOM.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Baptisms.—A baptismal service was held in the North Sea, at Hartlepool (Newcastle conference), on December 23rd, 1915, when one soul was added to the Church. Elder Willis S. Thomas officiated.

A baptismal service was held at "Deseret," 152 High Road, South Tottenham, London, N. (London conference), on Saturday, January 1st, 1916, when two souls were added to the fold of Christ, Elders Charles F. Powell and Gilbert Taysom officiating.

Releases and Departures.—The following-named missionaries have been honorably released from their labors in the British mission, and sailed for home December 31st, 1915, per s.s. *Scandinavian*: Grover T. Bennett, Virgil C. Hall, Charles L. Carlisle, Robert H. Jones, Francis O. Vernon, James M. Toone, Sidney R. Godfrey, Charles W. Tonks, Frank W. Mumms. One emigrant sailed with the company, which was in charge of Elders Virgil C. Hall, Charles L. Carlisle, and James M. Toone.

DIED.

BANKS.—At Gateshead (Newcastle conference), December 22nd, 1915, Lydia Banks. Deceased was baptized October 15th, 1915, by Elder Marion Knight. Sister Banks lived and died a faithful Latter-day Saint.

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